

20/10/09

My motivation to introduce these meetings has been stimulated by the events that occurred on the 10th of October 2009.

For most of us, it was one of the first real encounters with the police. The incident was shocking, and an eye-opening experience. To an extent, there was some realization as to what hidden injustice there is embedded within the law; what very obvious injustice there is in the way that it is applied, and the power of the police force (one of its many branches) as a result.

It is significant to understand that we are "the next generation". Our experience, understanding, and unification will be what determines the future. We must be the change; we must be the movement; we have a voice.

It is also important that we gather independently from other organizations, more experienced /knowledgeable age groups, and influences because we must all begin from a basic, common ground. Assume not that we know nothing, but acknowledge that we do know very little. We cannot allow any form of propaganda to sway our minds to the point where we refuse to compromise any other kind of information.

The purpose of these meetings, is so that we can come together to share our thoughts and ideas. We each have an opinion that we are entitled to and which must be heard. Yet, this opinion is at its most fundamental level. Here is where we will help each other expand the depth of our knowledge, and start to understand our surroundings, together.

What is the definition of "Capitalism", "Communism", "Anarchy", "Socialism", "Racism", "Sexism", "Cycle of Poverty", "De Facto" "De Jure" etc? These are questions we must start asking. What impact industries, religious institutions (e.g. The Church), the media, the education system, have on the minds of society; how all these things link together; And most importantly what role the economy takes in this 'game'. As a result we can observe the categorization of people into social classes. From the extreme of the over indulged celebrity seen on television in the comfort of your living room, to the child in Ghana under the age of five, who will die in the next three seconds from either AIDS, Typhoid, or Malaria. The irony is that this child is one out of six million that will die this year for the same reason; yet in a few weeks, we will be reading about this same celebrity who tragically "slipped right out of the doctors hands" after going in for their 7th breast enlargement.

And what about everyone in between? They have not escaped the burdens that the system imposes onto every one of us. Emotional, mental burdens that are created when a combination of the previously discussed 'subsections' of the system leave their effect: stress, frustration, depression (acute and severe), alcoholism, drug abuse, personality disorders, eating disorders, physical abuse to oneself and others; detached youth, detached society.

What we must do, is attend school, observe our lessons, understanding what brilliant conclusions, ideas, questions, and arguments we can come to when these subjects are merged. It is then each individual's responsibility to take the information they have gathered with them; they shall then begin to read books, articles, magazines, listen to the radio and watch the news. And not only; they shall go into the outside world and begin to

discuss with people of different ethnicities, age groups, political ideologies, religions etc. constantly having two things in mind:

Background- where is this person from? What might his living situation be like at home? Do they go to school/ work? Do they have family? What social class do they belong to?

Perceiving- How does this person perceive their surroundings? What are their beliefs and opinions on society?

Here we will draw our conclusions making the link between these two key factors.

This information will then be brought to the meetings where it shall be discussed. Each person shall weigh out what they learn gradually, developing and strengthening their own individual opinion; their own view point, their own ideology. This is the only way we will start to come to contact with the outside world and begin to understand what is happening.

It is guaranteed that in this process at times we are going to get frustrated, with ourselves, with others, especially with the surroundings which with time we are going to become more and more familiar with. Angry; definitely angry. Our ideas may start to contradict those of who we love most; but that's all a part of life, and growth. This is why we will come together; to share what we learn with each other; to share our pain, our queries. The problem with previous generations, no matter how much knowledge we can acquire from them, is that with experience and years of political exposure, is that they develop a 'shield' (which we must not forget can shatter as well) and tend to lose sensitivity towards the youth, forgetting what it was like to be in our position; facing 'reality', or something close to it for the first time. No one but our friends here at these meetings will understand the irritation the other is feeling. And no one has the right to make the other feel like they cannot voice this.

We all have a select amount of knowledge. We will all fill each others gaps. Share what we learn; hear each others questions and ask for help; express our opinions; argue; fight; cry; and learn. This is why we come together. We teach each other, we help each other, reach out to one another. No one knows more or less; we are all equal. We all have a voice.

